

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01

IO-03 EUR-10 NEA-06 DPW-01 AID-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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O R 201030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2864

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I -- SUMMARY.

1. MR 1 CONTINUED QUIET NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS IN THUA THIEN AND QUANG TRI PROVINCES. SOUTH OF THE PASS, COMMUNIST INITIATED ACTIVITY AGAIN FOCUSED ON QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. QUANG NAM HAD A SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MINING INCIDENTS. IN MR 2 BOTH SIDES WERE ACTIVE MILITARILY AND THE LEVEL AND INTENSITY OF ENGAGEMENTS INCREASED SHARPLY. IN KONTUM PROVINCE THE COMMUNISTS MOUNTED HEAVY GROUND AND FIRE ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NEAR KONTUM CITY. GOVERNMENT FORCES IN TURN LAUNCHED OPERATIONS IN BINH DINH, PHU YEN, QUANG DUC, AND BINH THUAN PROVINCES. REGION-WIDE ARVN CASUALTIES TRIPLED AND COMMUNIST CASUALTIES MORE THAN DOUBLED DURING THE WEEK, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY FIGHTING IN KONTUM AND THE GVN'S ONGOING MULTI-BATTALION OPERATION IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE. IN MR3 MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT LAST WEEK'S RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL WITH THE OVER-ALL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DOWN AGAIN THIS WEEK. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES ALSO FELL SHARPLY BUT GVN CASUALTIES ROSE SLIGHTLY BECAUSE OF A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN MINING INCIDENTS. THE GVN LOST TWO PBR PATROL BOATS TO COMMUNIST FROGMEN AND TWO F5A FIGHTER BOMBERS AS A RESULT OF AN AIR COLLISION DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE. THE OVER-ALL LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 4 AGAIN DECLINED. HOWEVER, THE GVN'S MULTI-BATTALION OPERATION AGAINST COMMUNIST BASE AREA 470 (TRI PHAP) RESULTED IN A CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHERN DELTA. IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, SOUTH OF TRI PHAP, THE NUMBER OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE YEAR. IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY EITHER REMAINED AT LAST WEEK'S LEVELS OR DECLINED. IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, IN THE SECOND SUCH INCIDENT IN TWO WEEKS IN THE DELTA A GRENADE WAS THROWN INTO A PAGODA CROWD KILLING AT LEAST 19 AND WOUNDING 32. THE COMMUNISTS GAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR EARLY COOPERATION ON THE MISSING IN ACTION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAINING DICS AT THE MARCH 19 MEETING OF THE FPJMT, THE FIRST MEETING SINCE THE DRV BEGAN AND COMPLETED THE REPATRIATION OF ITS ACKNOWLEDGED DIC REMAINS. THE ICCS ARGUED OVER HOW TO INVESTIGATE THE CAI LAY ATROCITY WHILE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS THROUGHOUT SVN.

PART II -- ICCS.

2. THE CAI LAY ATROCITY HAS AGAIN POSED A MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THE ICCS. IN A SUDDEN SWITCH THE "PRG" FOLLOWED THE GVN LEAD AND REQUESTED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT. THE ICCS AGREED TO INVESTIGATE, BUT THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS INSISTED THAT THE ICCS REGIONAL AND LOCAL TEAMS BE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY. THE TWO COMMUNIST ICCS DELEGATIONS DEMANDED INSTEAD THAT AN INVESTIGATION TEAM BE SENT FROM SAIGON ICCS HEADQUARTERS. AS A SOLUTION TO THIS IMPASSE THE ICCS REQUESTED THAT THE TPJMC DECIDE THE MODE OF INVESTIGATION. THE INDODEL AND IRDELS HAVE TOLD THE CHIEF OF THE RVN DEL TO THE TPJMC THAT THE COMMUNIST MOVE IS A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE JUSTIFICATION FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL TEAM SITES.

3. ON MARCH 14 THE GVN NOTIFIED THE ICCS THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO PAY IMMEDIATELY ITS SHARE OF THE REVISED ICCS BUDGET.

PART III -- FPJMT.

4. THE MARCH 19 MEETING OF THE FPJMT, THE FIRST SINCE THE DRV BEGAN AND COMPLETED REPATRIATION OF THE REMAINS OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IT ACKNOWLEDGES AS HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY (DIC) IN NORTH VIET-NAM, GAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR EARLY COMMUNIST MOVES TO CARRY OUT THEIR OTHER OBLIGATIONS TOWARD THE DICS AND THOSE MISSING IN ACTION. THE "PRG" REPRESENTATIVE CALLED THE DRV'S REPATRIATION OF THE DICS A "UNILATERAL ACT OF GOODWILL" AND NOT AN ACT OF THE FPJMT WHICH MUST LEAD TO DISCUSSION OF THE REMAINS OF THE DICS THE "PRG" HAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE IN ITS POSSESSION. THE DRV TOOK A SIMILAR LINE AND BOTH COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS TURNED THE MEETING INTO A VITUPERATIVE AND WIDE-RANGING PROPAGANDA ATTACK ON THE US AND GVN SIDES.

PART IV -- COMMUNISTS BLAST INITIAL DELIVERY OF F-5ES. HANOI AND THE SO-CALLED "PRG" DENOUNCED THE DELIVERY OF FOUR F-5E
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AIRCRAFT TO BIEN HOA AIRBASE ON MARCH 13. THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, IN A MARCH 15 STATEMENT, TERMED THE ACT "AN EXTREMELY GROSS AND BRAZEN" VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 7 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHICH "PROVES" THAT THE US IS "INTENSIFYING ITS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND INTERFERENCE" IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. THE MINISTRY FOLLOWED UP THIS STATEMENT WITH A NOTE TO UNSYG WALDHEIM ON MARCH 18. (IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THIS NOTE WAS SENT TO THE OTHER PARTICIPATANTS IN THE INERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AS WELL.) INITIAL "PRG" COMMENT WAS NOTED ON MARCH 14 WHEN THE SPOKESMAN OF ITS DELEGATION TO THE PARIS BILATERALS CHARGED THAT THE PROVISION OF F-5ES NOT ONLY VIOLATES THE AGREEMENT BUT ALSO PROVIDES ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE GVN TO IMPLEMENT ITS "WARLIKE POLICY." ON MARCH 16 THE "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY ADDED
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O R 201030Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2865
INFO AME BASSY BANGKOK
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AMCONSUL CAN THO
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AXLONSUL DANANG 7707
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART V MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 53 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 8, AND ONLY ONE LESS THAN THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S TOTAL OF 54. GVN CASUALTIES: 31 KIA; 143 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 87 KIA; 6 RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

QUIET, BROKEN ONLY BY A FEW SMALL INCIDENTS, CONTINUES TO REIGN IN QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANLNAM THE ENEMY SET TWO SUCCESSFUL AMBUSHES, ONE KILLING A HAMLET CHIEF AND ANOTHER KILLING ONE RF SOLDIER AND WOUNDING 3. THERE WERE 37 ENEMY MINING INCIDENTS IN THE PROVINCE.

4. THERE WAS NO MILITARY ACTIVITY OF SIGNIFICANCE IN QUANG TIN. QUANG NGAI, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO BE THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN THE REGION. TWO ENEMY ROCKET ATTACKS WERE OF PARTICULAR NOTE: ONE JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY ON MARCH 14 KILLED 1 AND WOUNDED 2; ONE ON MARCH 15 STRADDLED THE EASTERN END OF THE AIRPORT, KILLING 1 AND WOUNDING 12. ELEMENTS OF THE 70TH RANGER BN BASED IN BA TO DISTRICT, SOUTHWESTERN QUANG NGAI, WERE ORDERED ON OPERATIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. PATROLLING IN KONTUM PROVINCE, THEY REPORTEDLY KILLED 15 NVA LABORERS, DESTROYED 5 HONDAS AND 41 BICYCLES, AND CAPTURED QUANTITIES OF RICE AND DOCUMENTS.

5. ICCS:

THERE WAS NO REPORTED ICCS ACTIVITY NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. IN ICCS REGION II IN DANANG THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS WERE PRESENT AT 3 SCHOOLS WHERE STUDENTS PROTESTED THE VC ROCKETING OF THE CAI LAY SCHOOL IN MY THO PROVINCE. THE INDONESIANS AND
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IRANIANS ALSO OBSERVED THE SITE OF THE MARCH 14 ROCKETING OUTSIDE OF QUANG NGAI.

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

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PART VI -- MR 2.

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: THE LEVEL AND INTENSITY OF MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED SHARPLY IN MR II DURING THE WEEK, PARTICULARLY IN KONTUM AND BINH THUAN PROVINCES. REGION HQ AT NHA TRANG BRIEFED 163 INCIDENTS COMPARED TO 116 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. BINH DINH AND PLEIKU HAD THE MOST INCIDENTS, WITH 43 AND 42 RESPECTIVELY. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS OCCURRED IN KONTUM, WHICH REPORTED 26 INCIDENTS. PHU YEN REPORTED 17, BINH THUAN 13, DARLAC 9, QUANG DUC 8, LAM DONG 3, PHU BON 1 AND TUYEN DUC 1. RVNAF SUFFERED 111 KIA, 352 WIA AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER MIA, UP FROM 30 KIA, 105 WIA AND 25 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES INCREASED FROM 336 TO 683. AIR STRIKES WERE REPORTED IN DARLAC (18), PLEIKU (16), BINH DINH (14), BINH THUAN (4) AND KONTUM (3).

2. KONTUM/PLEIKU: THERE WERE HEAVY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NE OF KONTUM TOWN ON MARCH 16 AND 17 RESULTING IN AN ESTIMATED 340 COMMUNISTS KIA WHILE RVNAF SUFFERED 70 KIA, 120 WIA AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER MIA. SOME OF THE RVNAF CASUALTIES ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY FRIENDLY ARTILLERY, WHEN THE COMMANDER OF THE 22ND RANGER GROUP WAS FORCED TO CALL IN AIR BURSTS OVER HIS OWN CP. THE FIGHTING OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF THE VO DINH/KON BRAIH ROAD, WHICH IS AN INFILTRATION CORRIDOR INTO N.E. PLEIKU PROVINCE. LAST WEEK'S SITREP REPORTED THE RECOVERY OF 124 VILLAGERS FROM PLEI DE GROI VILLAGE IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY ACCOMPANIED THE VC INTO AN AREA UNDER THEIR CONTROL. WHILE RECOVERING THESE PERSONS THE RF DISCOVERED A LIVING AREA CONTAINING SOME 144 INDIVIDUALS WHO CAME UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL IN 1972. THESE PERSONS WERE EVACUATED TO GVN CONTROL AND 7 ACRES OF FOODCROPS WERE DESTROYED. THE RF ALSO CAPTURED 20 TONS OF RICE AND REPORTED KILLING 4 VC.

3. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: OUR PROV REP IN BINH DINH REPORTS THAT THE NUMBER OF COMMUNIST INITIATED ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND ATTACKS TRIPLED DURING THE WEEK, BUT THAT THE INITIATIVE CONTINUES TO LIE WITH THE GVN. IN THE COASTAL VILLAGE OF HOAI MY, HOAPANHON DISTRICT, ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH RANGER GROUP AND TERRITORIAL FORCES LAUNCHED

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AN OPERATION ON MARCH 9 DESIGNED TO SEIZE THE HIGH GROUND. THAT OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND AN OUTPOST IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION FROM WHICH THE RANGERS EXPECT TO CONTROL SUBSTANTIAL ADJACENT RICE LAND. GENERAL TOAN, THE MR COMMANDING OFFICER, BELIEVES THE COMMUNISTS WILL STEP UP ATTEMPTS TO INTERDICT QL 19 FROM QUI NHON TO PLEIKU IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO INCIDENTS ON THE ROAD AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ATTACK IN KONTUM. IN PHU YEN PROVINCE, THE NEW PROVINCE CHIEF IS PRESSING OPERATIONS INTO CONTESTED TERRAIN, PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTHWESTERN PARTS OF TUY AN DISTRICT.

A VC DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND 4 VC VILLAGE OFFICES WERE REPORTEDLY OVERRUN DURING THE WEEK. THE PROVINCE CHIEF ANTICIPATES RETALIATION IN THE FORM OF AN ATTACK ON THE HIEU XUONG DISTRICT HQS AND IS BOLSTERING HIS DEFENSES THERE.

4. OTHER AREAS: GOVERNMENT FORCES IN QUANG DUC OPENED QL 14 FROM KIEN DUC TO THE MR 3 BORDER ON MARCH 14. THE OPERATION MET NO RESISTANCE AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WELL BEFORE THE NOVEMBER BU PRONG/BU BONG ATTACKS THE ROAD IS OPEN FROM THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCIAL CAPITAL TO SAIGON, VIA BAN ME THUOT AND NHA TRANG. THE ARVN 53RD REGIMENT, OPERATING BETWEEN TL 8B AND BU PRANG/BU BONG, IS CAUTIOUSLY EXPANDING ITS AO AND IS MEETING LIGHT RESISTANCE. THE GOVERNMENT OPERATION IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE (REPORTED LAST WEEK) RESULTED IN CONTACT WITH 4 VC BATTALIONS AND ELEMENTS OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON MARCH 15 AND 16 CUMULATIVE RESULTS OF THE OPERATION TO DATE INCLUDE THE CAPTURE OR DESTRUCTION OF 33 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, 85 B-40 AND B-41 ROUNDS, 85 MORTAR ROUNDS, 1 BATTALION SIZE HOSPITAL COMPLEX, 5 BATTALION AND COMPANY SIZE BASE COMPLEXES, 6 DRUMS OF DIESEL FUEL, MORE THAN VN\$1,000,000, LARGE QUANTITIES OF MEDICINE, FOODSTUFFS AND ASSORTED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, 271 HOUSES AND 682 BUNKERS. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE SUFFERED 155 KIA AND 10 CAPTURED, INCLUDING 8 VCI. GOVERNMENT LOSSES ARE 13 KIA, 61 WIA AND 1 MIA. IN DARLAC PROVINCE, THE OPERATION WESR Y4 BAN DON HAS BEEN DECLARED A SUCCESS BY GENERAL TOAN AND THE 45TH REGIMENT WAS SENT TO BAN ME THUOT FOR REST AND REFITTING ON MARCH 16. TOAN CLAIMS THAT THE COMMUNIST LOC IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE PROVINCE IS EFFECTIVELY INTERDICTED, AND GVN AUTHORITIES REPORT A NEW ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION ONLY 3 KM EAST OF THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

5. ICCS:- DELEGATES ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE REDUCTION IN
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SUPPORT PARTICULARLY THE CUTBACK IN AVAILABLE VEHICLES. THE PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT, FOUR JEEPS AND DRIVERS AT REGION AND ONE AT EACH SUBSITE, IS SAID TO BE INSUFFICIENT TO ALLOW ON-SITE INSPECTIONS. THE INDONESIANS IN KONTUM COMPLAINED ABOUT THEIR INABILITY TO GET A VEHICLE FROM THE POLISH CHAIRMAN AND POIN
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PART VII -- MR 3.

1. WEEK UNDER REVIEW SAW MR 3 HEADQUARTERS FOCUSING ON
NVA/VC THREAT TO RESETTLEMENT AREAS IN
LONG KHANH, BINH TUY AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES. RUNG LA SITE IN LONG
KHANH WAS RECENTLY ATTACHED BY FIRE AND COMMUNISTS ARE NOW
DENYING RESETTLERS ACCESS TO FOREST AREAS. RECENT MOVEMENT
OF ENEMY UNITS CLOSER TO RESETTLEMENT AREAS COULD ALSO
THREATEN PROJECTED PLACEMENT OF SOME 60,000 REFUGEES
INTO THESE SITES OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS AND AGGRAVATE EXISTING

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WEEK'S MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL (141 INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH 158 LAST PERIOD) AND WAS CHARACTERIZED BY SCATTERED LIGHT CONTACTS AND REDUCTIONS IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CATEGORY EXCEPT MININGS. A MAJOR GVN PLUS WAS THE OPENING OF ROUTE 14 TO BESEIGED PHUOC LONG PROVINCE.

2. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE SHARPLY DOWN (25 KIA AND 2 CIA FROM 138 KIA, 11 CIA LAST WEEK), BUT GVN LOSSES WERE SLIGHTLY HIGHER AT 197 (31 KIA, 164 WIA, 2 MIA) COMPARED WITH LAST WEEK'S 194 TOTAL. GROUND CONTACTS DROPPED TO 29 FROM 36, MOST OF THEM MINOR; COMMUNIST ARTILLERY FELL TO VERY LOW 546 ROUNDS AND HARRASSMENT/TERRORIST INCIDENTS, AT 17, WERE ABOUT HALF OF LAST WEEK'S TOTAL. ONLY MINE INCIDENTS SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE, FROM 41 TO 54, INCREASING GVN CASUALTY FIGURES. TWO INCIDENTS, BOTH INVOLVING DETONATION OF MODIFIED 105 MM ARTILLERY ROUNDS, EACH CAUSED SIGNIFICANT LOSSES; THE FIRST, IN LONG AN, CLAIMED 5 KIA AND 9 WIA; THE SECOND, IN BIEN HOA, WOUNDED 13 OF THE 81ST AIRBORNE RANGER BATTALION ON PATROL IN THE ROCKET LAUNCHING BELT OF TAN UYEN DISTRICT. GVN ARTILLERY FIRINGS FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 14 (GVN REPORTING PERIOD) WERE 11,360 ROUNDS, 691 LESS THAN WEEK BEFORE. AIR SORTIES FLOWN DURING SAME PERIOD WERE 141, A REDUCTION OF 83. RALLIERS INCREASED TO SIX (2 LAST WEEK) BUT NO ARVN ESCAPEES WERE REPORTED. BINH DUONG AGAIN LED WITH 351 8:8\$3,5; HOWEVER THESE CONSISTED MAINLY OF SCATTERED SHELLINGS, SMALL PATROL SKIRMISHES AND MININGS. BINH LONG, WITH 28 INCIDENTS AND HAU NGHIA WITH 22 WERE NEXT MOST ACTIVE.

3. PHUOC TUY. ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT LEVELS OF RECENT WEEKS AS TWO
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REGIMENTS OF ARVN 18TH DIVISION SWEEPED AREAS ADJACENT TO ROUTE 15 IN LONG LE AND DAT DO DISTRICTS IN EFFORTS TO SECURE THE AREAS APPROACHING VUNG TAU WHERE FARMERS' WEEK WILL BE CELEBRATED MARCH 26-31. ENEMY FROGMEN SANK TWO PBR PATROL BOATS 12 KILOMETERS SW OF LONG LE ON MARCH 14. IRANDEL AND INDODEL TEAMS (ICCS REGION V) HAVE ALREADY VISITED SITE FOR "OBSERVATION."

4. PHUOC LONG. PROVINCE FORCES OPENED QL 14 FROM INTERSECTION OF LTL 311 INTO QUANG DUC, MR 2 IN AN EFFORT TO RE-ESTABLISH A LAND ROUTE TO SAIGON VIA BAN ME THUOT AND NHA TRANG. A CONVOY OF 18 TRUCKS CARRYING MOSTLY RUBBER WHICH HAD STOCKPILED OVER PAST MONTHS LEFT SONG BE MARCH 15 AS SOON AS MR 2 AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THEIR PORTION OF QL 14 WAS OPEN. ON SAME DAY CONVOY OF 12 TRUCKS ARRIVED AT SONG BE. SEVEN ROUNDS OF 85MM ARTILLERY HIT SONG BE MAR 12 CAUSING 9 CIVILIAN WIA. THE 107MM ROCKETS REPORTED IN LAST SITREP AS IMPACTING AT SONG BE WERE DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN 85MM AFTER ARTILLERY ROUNDS FRAGMENTS WERE INSPECTED.

5. BINH LONG. TWO DAYLIGHT CONVOYS OF NVA/VC TRUCKS WERE SPOTTED AT TONLE CHAM AND AT 10 KILOMETERS SE OF PHU GIAO AS THE COMMUNISTS ARE APPARENTLY BECOMING MORE DARING IN THEIR MOVEMENTS. SMALL

ARMS "TEAR GAS" AMMUNITION WAS EMPLOYED AGAINST TONLE CHAM THIS WEEK FOR FIRST TIME. COMMUNIST SHELLING IN VICINITY OF AN LOC CONTINUED AT MODERATELY HIGH RATE AND SEVERAL MINOR CONTACTS WITH NVA/VC UNITS WERE REPORTED.

6. TAY NINH. IN AN OTHERWISE QUIET WEEK (10 INCIDENTS) NVA/VC FORCES LAUNCHED THREE ABF ATTACKS TOTALLING MORE THAN 100 ROUNDS AGAINST RF UNITS IN HIEU THIEN DISTRICT ON MARCH 14 INFLECTING FRIENDLY CASUALTIES OF 3 KIA AND 10 WIA. SPECULATION CONTINUES AS TO HOW MUCH OF NVA/VC 5TH DIVISION HAS REDEPLOYED FROM WAR ZONE C TO MR 4.

7. OTHER. MID AIR COLLISION OF TWO F5A'S OVER THE BIEN HOA/ BINH DUONG BORDER CLAIMED THE LIFE OF ONE PILOT AND TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF BOTH PLANES DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE MARCH 15. IN LONG KHANH A NATIONAL POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH SERGEANT WAS ASSISSINATED BY FOUR VC DRESSED IN ARVN UNIFORMS AND ARMED WITH M16 RIFLES. THREE SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

8. ICCS: INDODEL REPORTED THAT ONLY ONE "OBSERVATION" WAS
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MADE DURING PAST WEEK WITH BOTH IRANDEL AND INDODEL PARTICIPATING. INDODEL CHIEF CLAIMS THAT IRANIAN PARTICIPATION IN OBSERVATIONS IS STILL IRREGULAR, AVERAGING FROM 2 TO 4 PER WEEK, AND THEN ONLY WHEN IRANIANS OR INDONESIANS ARE REGIONAL CHAIRMEN. INDODEL ALSO NOTED THAT COMMUNIST DELS FAVOR CLOSING LAM SON AND CU CHI SUB-REGIONAL SITES BECAUSE OF LACK OF SAFETY GUARANTEES. A COMMITTEE FROM SAIGON MILITARY COMMISSION WILL VISIT SITES NEXT WEEK TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. INDODELS FROM REGION V HEADQUARTERS AND ALL SUB-REGIONAL SITES DONATED BLOOD FOR WOUNDED SCHOOL CHILDREN OF CAI LAY, ACCORDING TO INDODEL CHIEF, AND ALTHOUGH OTHER DELS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, THEY HAVE NOT YET CONTRIBUTED BLOOD.

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01

IO-03 EUR-10 NEA-06 DPW-01 AID-10 DRC-01 /081 W

----- 026184

O R 201030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2868

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALWRA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CGFMFPAC

CFR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACHTAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

PART VIII -- MR 4.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY
IN THE DELTA DECLINED FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE WEEK WITH MR4
REPORTING 244 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (323 LAST WEEK)
CONSISTING OF 13 GROUND ATTACKS (24), 1 INFILTRATION (NONE
LAST WEEK), 143 ATTACKS BY FIRE (184), 66 HARASSMENTS (89),

8 INSTANCES OF SABOTAGE (10) AND 13 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (14). REPORTED GVN CASUALTIES, HOWEVER, DROPPED ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM THE PRECEDING PERIOD: 126 KILLED (128 LAST WEEK), 584 WOUNDED (678) AND 34 MISSING (60). THE GVN ALSO LOST 3 CREW-SERVED (7 LAST WEEK) AND 62 (100) INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. CORPS CLAIMS 492 VC/NVA KILLED (DOWN FROM 715 LAST WEEK), 28 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (32), AND 34 CREW-SERVED (26) AND 206 INDIVIDUAL (181) WEAPONS SEIZED. ACTIVITY REMAINED SCATTERED WITH SEVEN PROVINCES MAKING THE MOST ACTIVE LIST ON DIFFERENT DAYS. IN THE SECOND SUCH INCIDENT IN TWO WEEKS, A GRENADE IN A PAGODA IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE KILLED 19 AND WOUNDED 32. SEVERAL PROVINCES (PARTICULARLY AN XUYEN, BAC LIEU, CHAU DOC AND DINH TUONG) REPORT INCREASES IN BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS. FROM MARCH 11-14, VNAF FLEW 64 A-37 SORTIES CONCENTRATED IN KIEN TUONG, CHUONG THIEN AND KIEN GIANG PROVINCES.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: TOTAL INCIDENTS IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER LAST WEEK (FROM 63 TO 97), AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS CONTINUED TO INCREASE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE YEAR. AMONG THE LATTER WERE THE WOUNDING OF A GIONG TROM DISTRICT VILLAGE CHIEF IN AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND THE KIDNAPPING OF FOUR CIVILIANS IN BA TRI DISTRICT ALLEGEDLY FOR NOT PAYING TAXES. FIVE CIVILIANS KIDNAPPED MARCH 5 AND 6 WERE RELEASED MARCH 13. IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE OVERALL ACTIVITY DECLINED DURING THE WEEK, ALTHOUGH OPERATIONS IN THE NEW CORNER OF THE PROVINCE CONTINUE IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRI PHAP CAMPAIGN. ENEMY ACTIVITY CONCENTRATED ON LOC'S. ON MARCH 14, THE CA MAU OB NEAR ROUTE 29 IN CAI LAY DISTRICT WAS ABANDONED AFTER THE LOSS OF 10 RF KILLED AND 4 WOUNDED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CA MAU BRIDGE

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WAS 60 PERCENT DESTROYED BY MINING, HALTING TRAFFIC ON ROUTE 29 BETWEEN CAI LAY AND MOC HOA UNTIL LATE THE FOLLOWING DAY. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO OTHER MINING INCIDENTS ON ROUTE 29 THIS MONTH AFTER A HIATUS OF THREE MONTHS. KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REPORTS A FURTHER DECLINE IN QSUMYESNIQO TR INCIDENTS.

NUMEROUS WERE MORTARINGS IN MY AN AND KIEN VAN DISTRICTS. HONG NGU DISTRICT REMAINS QUIET, BUT THE EH Z-7 ARTILLERY BATTALION IS REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED INTO THE BORDER AREA NORTH OF HONG NGU. THE FORMERLY UNIDENTIFIED UNIT IN THE CAI CAI AREA OF HONG NGU (REPORTED LAST WEEK) IS NOW IDENTIFIED AS THE C-7 COMPANY OF THE E-207 REGIMENT. PART OF THE Z-15 NVA REGIMENT IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED BACK INTO EASTERN MY AN DISTRICT FROM THE TRI PHAP AREA. ACTIVITY IN CHAU DOC INCREASED SHARPLY WITH 18 INCIDENTS REPORTED COMPARED TO 4 LAST WEEK. A BIVOUAC SITE OF A COMPANY OF THE 539TH RF BATTALION RECEIVED 30 ROUNDS OF 61 AND 82MM MORTAR FIRE IN THE TRAM AREA, KIEN LUONG (D). FRIENDLY CASUALTIES: 4 KIA, 9 WIA. RF FORCES IN NORTHERN TAN

CHAU, ACTING ON HARD INTELLIGENCE, AMBUSHED A MIXED ENEMY
FORCE OF THE 512TH BATTALION KILLING 8 AND CAPTURING 5
INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS.

(C) TRI PHAP. NOW IN ITS FIFTH WEEK, THE TRI PHAP
CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN A SUSTAINED SERIES OF OPERATIONS THAT HAVE
BEEN EXTREMELY COSTLY TO THE VC/NVA. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 16TH
REGIMENT, 9TH ARVN DIVISION ARE ALTERNATING WITH THE 14TH REGIMENT;
AND ONE BATTALION OF THE 11TH REGIMENT, 7TH ARVN DIVISION IS
ALTERNATING WITH THE 12TH REGIMENT. TO THESE UNITS WAS ADDED LAST
WEEK THE 7TH RANGER GROUP COMPRISING THREE BATTALIONS AND A TOTAL
OF 1489 TROOPS. THE RANGERS ARE EXPECTED TO STAY ONE MONTH.
EFFECTIVE USE OF ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT FIRE HAS MINIMIZED
GVN CASUALTIES, ABOUT 65 PERCENT OF WHICH ARE THE RESULTS OF BOOBY
TRAPS. ARVN UNITS HAVE ALSO REPORTED SEEING VC/NVA KILLED
AND WOUNDED BY THEIR OWN BOOBY TRAPS WHILE FLEEING GVN
FORCES. THE KIEN TUONG PROVINCE CHIEF EXPECTS TRI PHAP REFUGEES
TO START RETURNING WITHIN ANOTHER WEEK. CAPTURED DOCUMENTS
INDICATE ENEMY INTENTION OF MAKING DIVERSIONARY MORTAR
ATTACKS ON MOC HOA (PROVINCE CAPITAL OF KIEN TUONG) AND
TUYEN NHON AND TUYEN BINH DISTRICT TOWNS AS WELL AS INTERDICTING
ROUTE 29, THUS ISOLATING KIEN TUONG PROVINCE.
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(D) CENTRAL DELTA: ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG PROVINCE REMAINED
MODERATE WITH MOST FRIENDLY CASUALTIES THE RESULT OF BOOBY
TRAPS. THE MOST ACTIVE DISTRICT WAS TAM BINH WHERE ONE OUTPOST
AT ONG VE (H), HAU LOC (V) WAS ABANDONED BECAUSE OF ENEMY
PRESSURE. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE VC ARE TRYING TO
ISOLATE MY LOC VILLAGE, TAM BINH (D). ACTIVITY IN NEIGHBORING
VINH BINH PROVINCE DECLINED TO 8 (3 ENEMY-INITIATED) INCIDENTS
FROM 15 LAST WEEK. IN THE SINGLE GROUND ATTACK OF THE WEEK, AN
OUTPOST AT PHONG PHU (V), CAU KE (D) WAS ATTACKED IN THE EARLY
MORNING OF MARCH 19. COMMUNICATIONS WERE LOST AND OUTCOME IS
STILL UNKNOWN. THE SITUATION IN PHONG DINH IS BASICALLY UN-
CHANGED FROM LAST WEEK. NO GROUND ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AND
MORE THAN HALF THE VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS RESULTED FROM
BOOBY TRAPS. THE SITUATION IN PHUNG HIEP DISTRICT (REPORTED LAST
WEEK) IS STATIC: AN ESTIMATED 5000 REFUGEES ARE NOW IN THE VICINITY
OF TH
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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01

IO-03 EUR-10 NEA-06 DPW-01 AID-10 DRC-01 /081 W

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O R 201030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2869

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG JY YOIV

RUFNPSXAMEMBASSY PARIS 4271

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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(E) SOUTHERN DELTA: THE MOST SERIOUS SINGLE INCIDENT OF THE WEEK IN THE DELTA OCCURRED AT THE VILLAGE TEMPLE IN AN TRACH (V), GIA RAI (D), BAC LIEU PROVINCE ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 14. A GRENADE EXPLODED AMONG A GROUP OF OVER 100 PEOPLE WHO WERE WATCHING A CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE . 19 HAVE DIED AND 32 ARE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. THE ICCS TEAM FROM CA

MAU VISITED THE SITE MARCH 15, BUT THE RESULTS OF ITS INVESTIGATION ARE NOT KNOWN. THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE SECTOR INVESTIGATION HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED, BUT TWO YOUNG MEN HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ARRESTED. ONE OF THE YOUTHS IS REPORTEDLY THE SON OF THE CHIEF OF A NEARBY HAMLET. THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE REP CAUTIONS THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL YET WHETHER THE INCIDENT WAS VC-PERPETRATED OR NOT. ELSEWHERE IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS REMAINED AT THE SAME LEVEL AS LAST WEEK (8), WITH NO GROUND ATTACKS BY FIRE. IN BA XUYEN, ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN MY PHUOC (V), THUAN HOA (D) AND IN NORTHERN KE SACH (D). ACTIVITY IN THE THANH TRI-HOA TU DISTRICT BORDER AREA DECLINED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CHRISTMAS. KIEN GIANG REPORTS A SHARP DECREASE IN ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS WITH NO GROUND ATTACKS. AN XUYEN ALSO REPORTS DECREASED ACTIVITY WITH TWO GROUND ATTACKS.

2. GVN ACTIVITIES: THE SHELLING OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN CAI LAY DISTRICT TOWN, DINH TUONG (P) ON MARCH 9 HAS GENERATED WIDESPREAD POPULAR DISMAY. AUTHORITIES ORGANIZED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DELTA. IN BAC LIEU, FOR EXAMPLE, 2-4000 STWDENTS MARCHED ON MARCH 13 AND 2000 MARCH 15. IN CAN THO A DEMONSTRATION REPORTEDLY INCLUDED 10,000 STUDENTS; IN MY THO, AN ESTIMATED 10,000 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED; AND IN CAI LAY ITSELF ON MARCH 15 THERE WERE ABOUT 10,000 STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS. THE DEMONSTRATIONS FEATURED FLAGS AND ANTI-COMMUNIST PLACARDS AND MOST WERE SUPPLIED WITH PUBLIC ADDRESS EQUIPMENT FURNISHED BY THE EDUCATION SERVICE.

3. PRG ACTIVITIES: THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE CHIEF OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED
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A MARCH 6 INTELLIGENCE REPORT TO MR4 CONFIRMING FORMATION OF VC BAC LIEU PROVINCE IN DECEMBER 1973. THE PROVINCE CONSISTS OF GVN PHUOC LONG, GIA RAI, THANH TRI AND VINH LOI DISTRICTS, BUT EXACT BOUNDARIES ARE UNKNOWN. BAC LIEU S-2 IS TRYING TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS AND STAFF PERSONNEL.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFILTRATION, REPATRIATION, COMMUNISTS, MASSACRES, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, TRUCE OBSERVERS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON03671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740058-1234
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740329/aaaabavl.tel
Line Count: 859
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 16
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS, PRG, ICCS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005